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bistable switching between color states under influence of said localized electric field.

[0010] In another aspect, the present invention provides a hard copy printing method including: selectively providing localized electric fields, each of said filed conforming to a predetermined picture element size; transporting a printing medium across said fields such that a bistable electrochromic colorant layer of said medium is subjected to said electric fields; and manipulating said electric fields to produce printed data onto said electrochromic colorant layer.

A [0011] In another aspect, the present invention provides method of doing business, the method including: providing a printing apparatus including an electrode subsystem for providing selectively localized electric fields corresponding to picture elements printable from digital data; providing a rewritable media instrument susceptible to said fields wherein said media instrument is associated with a service and use fees associated therewith; and printing and reprinting legible information on said media instrument associated with said use fee and a current balance with said stationary printing apparatus whenever said media instrument is used in association with said printing apparatus.

[0012] The foregoing summary is not intended by the inventors to be inclusive of all the aspects, objects, advantages and features of the present invention nor should any limitation on the scope of the invention be implied therefrom. This Summary is provided in accordance with the mandate of 37 C.F.R. 1.73 and M.P.E.P. 608.01(d) merely to apprise the public, and more especially those interested in the particular art to which the invention relates, of the nature of the invention in

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